

From: steven miller
To: Mike Powell
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Subject: Mr Powell, are you pro competition or Pro Baby Bells?

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

They (SBC) and the rest of the LECS only agreed to the requirements in the Communications act of 1996 so they could get their foothold into the LD voice, data, and internet markets. Clearly, they saw the future of telecom and it was bleak for the local service providers, due to the explosion of new technologies (Cell phone, wireless voice and data networking, Blackberry, 802.11 a/b, etc).

They now hold the FCC and local subscribers hostage while they ask for a reduction of the wholesale discount they originally agreed to so they could get the business they were previously barred from, Now they say the networks will ROT (on the vine) if they are not unencumbered from this "unfortunate" regulation) - that they agreed to. The UNE-P.

This was the ploy all along people... They knew that all they had to do was agree "in principal" up front and then argue like hell on the back end to stop the process once they got their way. The LECS complain of loss of subscribers to the LD companies (and CLECS). while trying as feverishly as possible to sign up customers for their own LD plans. Is the competition not something they expected? Did they just not know their OWN customer base enough to see what the LD companies would do? Did they expect the LD companies to just sit idly by while the LECS carved out pieces of their customer base?

Now they want to get a provision to exempt new networks (and their elements) from future sharing and wholesaling requirements. Want to see how fast these companies can move? Just give them thier exemption, and watch them roll out fiber on a scale unheard of! They will then use this ploy to rip out the copper to the homes and then cut off the competition from the "last mile", using those same exemptions

Give them tis exemption and be prepared to sign away ANY chance at competition in the local and LD markets, as the LECS will effective bar us from the local customers and only allow the LD companies enough of a market segment to keep the FCC' regulations satisfied.

This is what they did in local service. They sold just enough of the local customers to small, non-threatening rivals or independant companies so they could reach the "10-12%minumum local penetration" requirements to get the permission of the PUCs and FCC. Then they closed the door and shut out most other expansion. Now they complain that comanies like MCI/WCOM offer services below what the LECS are willing to sell it for. Sorry. that's the cost oif getting into the LD business. It's called COMPETITION - oh, you don't know that word, do you?

The only place the LECS show competition is in cellular/wireless, since they don't control the last mile and have to compete. See how courteous the sales reps are in the Verizon and Cingular wireless stores? Hmm, wouldn't be COMPETITION, would it?

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